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Correspondence from practical farmers, giving the results of their experience, is solicited. Letters should be signed with the writer's real name, and will be printed or not, as the writer may wish.
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Retired Farmers.

Quite ancient the old notion that farming is unprofitable are the facts brought out through investigation by the Massachusetts Bureau of Labor statistics. Of the 23,121 men and 17,556 women in the State who have retired from labor with enough to live on, no less than 3460 are farmers.

In fact, the number of farmers who have saved a competence is greater than of any other class. Next come the merchants, and third the men of the trades.

The average fortune of the retired farmer is not stated. Probably it would not be specially large. But the conditions of occupation particularly favor the farmer in his old age. He has been used to sensible habits of living and has not acquired costly wants. He can buy a village home at a small fraction of the cost of a city residence, and better suited to his needs. He can grow his own food, and a pastime, and knows how to make the most of it at small cost. He can get a surplus from his garden and orchard with the cow and poultry. His health is nearly always good for his age, and after a working period of the usual length he enjoys a long afternoon of life reasonably free from pain and doctors' bills.

Country living is very inexpensive to a careful spender and chances favor a fair rate of interest on savings. The main street of many a pleasant country town is lined chiefly with the homelike estates of retired farmers, who have saved enough to buy the new home and who live very comfortably on the rent of the farm and perhaps a little money at interest.

Others retire from active labors without leaving the farm, and these are able to enjoy a serene old age on an income that would seem small in other circumstances. As Mr. Butterworth declares, a farmer with say \$4000 or \$5000 in farm and equipment, and as much more at interest, is in substance better off than a millionaire. A good deal less than the sums stated have often served to keep a retired farmer in plenty and happiness. The power to be content with simple and natural comforts is a grand resource for old age, and the fact that farm life is the best of preparations for an enjoyable old age is one of the advantages of the occupation often not duly valued.

Who Buys the Farm?

A glance over the lists of recent sales of country real estate shows that more and more of the good old ancestral farms are passing into the hands of a different class of owners. The names include plenty of such endings as 'ski', 'ello', 'berg', 'han', 'sen'. These people are supplanting the native-born young men to such an extent as to completely change the makeup of some Eastern communities.

Their purchase of property is of course not due to any prejudice in their favor on the part of former owners, but to the fact that Jean Callette or Steve Kalouski is, perhaps, the only buyer willing to pay anything like a fair price. These enterprising persons have worked a few years in a city shop and laid up several hundred dollars. Taught by their experiences in overcrowded Europe to prize the ownership of land, they are ready to take a farm on easy terms and work hard to pay for it in full. They do not despise a location which happens to be over five minutes walk from a trolley line or more than ten miles from a city. They expect to work and save, with a great deal of help from vigorous, ambitious women folks and their numerous and doleful children.

Meanwhile the young man, who would have been natural heir to the farm, has sold his birthright for a job where he can wear creased trousers every day in the week and keep his finger nails white and smooth. With an idle wife and a pug dog he lives in a little flat, of which the monthly rent is equal to the price of an acre of good farm land. He grows hollow-eyed and nervous, and wears out young, but the people with the strange names live and multiply in the ancestral homes.

Outline of Hop Culture.

Hops should be grown where there is a free circulation of air and plenty of sunshine, for without these rust, blight and mildew will abound. Any rich spot where good corn and potatoes can be grown is suitable, where no water stands on the surface at any time. Water standing around the hops will kill them.

In the spring, as early as ground can be worked fine and mellow, the hops should be planted. The yard is then staked off and marked out with a plow or line and planted with a dibble. Corn, potatoes or any hoed crop can be raised the first year with the hops. Rows should be eight feet apart, and the hills the same distance apart both ways

(on rich bottom lands nine or ten feet better.) It is a great mistake to have the hills crowded.

Runners from old vines are used as sets for planting. Care must be taken to keep the sets from male plants separate from the others. The hop is a dioecious plant, having staminate (male) and pistillate (female) flowers on separate plants. There should be one staminate hill to every eight hills each way, or one in sixty-four, making from eight to twelve in an acre. These hills are marked at planting to enable one to distinguish them at a glance. Two pairs of eyes each are allowed to a set (if very short pointed, three pairs of eyes). Put three to five of these sets in a hill, four inches apart. Where the pole system is used, make a furrow four inches deep, dibble the holes in the furrow just deep enough to allow the sets to be underground and press the soil around them. Set a ten-foot stake one foot deep in each hill. Keep the weeds down and the ground mellow. If good sets are used and planted very early, from six hundred to eight hundred pounds of hops to the acre can be picked the first year.

Round poles, or better 1 1/2 inches square sawed stuff, may be used for stakes. Cover these with gas tar to protect them from the weather, also from insects and lice. Connect the top of all the stakes by wire or twine. Wind once around so it can be easily removed, run the wire across the yard both ways. At the staminate put stakes eight feet long so the male vines will run up them, and the wind can blow the pollen over the yard. The wire or twine should pass these stakes free so that the wind will not break it.

Early the second spring hoe the dirt from the hill without injuring the crown of the root, leaving the hill nearly bare. With a knife cut off all the old vines and runners. Never tear them off nor cut them with a hoe. After plowing and harrowing the yard, take out the runners or sets and hoe the dirt back upon the hill so that the ground will be nearly level. These sets are only found after the second year, and if saved can be sold for planting.

When the vines are three feet high tie four of them to each stake with soft twine, putting them around the stake the way the sun goes. Tie as often as any leave the stake. When the smallest vines have a good start (three feet or more) bury the refuse vine two inches deep at the foot of the stake, or cut carefully and cure for fodder.

Mix slacked lime and unleached ashes, and put on a pint to each hill; this keeps away grubs and serves as manure. When the vines are two or three feet above the stake, wind upon the wire or twine, never put the arms upon the wire; they will not break by hanging, and will get more sunshine and air.

Hops are ripe when the seeds are hard and of a purple color. After this they turn brown, seeds drop out and there is a great loss in quality and weight. Commence picking when the seeds begin to harden and turn in color. Do not hurry too fast at this stage, for while the hops are rather green, the kilns must not be filled more than ten or twelve inches deep. When the hops are fully ripe, on a good kiln, they can be dried from fifteen to twenty-four inches deep and two kilns full can be dried in a day.

A. I. LEONARD.

The Profitable Catalpa.
This valuable tree is often misjudged because of the commonness of the Southern variety, which is worthless for business purposes. It is of small, crooked growth. What is here said about the tree applies only to the Western variety, *Catalpa speciosa*.

This tree has two strong points to recommend it. They are durability of wood and rapidity of growth. Instances are on record where catalpa posts have remained in the ground for a hundred years. In preparing an exhibit for the World's Fair, at Chicago, round boards were obtained from a log that had lain on the ground for a century. The tree is being looked to with much interest as a possible source for the production of railroad ties, the demand for which is becoming greater each year. The natural home of the species is in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys, yet it is known to thrive in many localities outside that region. So far as information at hand, it promises well in New England, though it can hardly be expected to make so rapid a growth as in its native habitat. It is such a rank-growing tree that best results are obtained by planting in rows not nearer than eight feet apart, with trees at least six feet apart in the row. A hoed crop can be grown between the rows the first year. Under favorable conditions, the tree will make posts in from seven to ten years. It sprouts from the trunk as readily as a chestnut, and these sprouts will make posts in four or five years. In starting a plantation it is usually desirable to cut down the young trees when thoroughly established, in order to induce a straight, vigorous growth. The side branches do not fall away readily, hence to produce good lumber it is necessary that they should be pruned away from time to time.

At the home of Mr. Arthur J. Marble, 38 Birch street, Worcester, Mass., is a *Catalpa* about seventeen years old, which is seventy-eight inches girth at the ground, sixty-eight inches girth at three feet height, and seventy-two inches girth at seven feet from ground. This tree is grown for shade, being forty feet high, with a spread of branches thirty-five feet.

The illustration, reproduced by permission of Dr. H. J. Wheeler of the Rhode Island Experiment Station, shows a forest of catalpa on the Russell Farm at East Greenwich, R. I. The manager holds in his hand a one-year-old catalpa shoot, six or seven feet high. On rich soil a shoot from a stump has been known to make a perfectly

upright growth of sixteen feet in six months. This rapidity of growth, combined with last year's quality of wood is a combination approached, but apparently not equaled in degree by white pine, Norway pine and chestnut. The following directions and estimates on planting the catalpa are from a pamphlet by John P. Brown of Illinois, a specialist on tree culture.

One-year-old trees are always used in forest planting, and these may be had at from \$5 to \$10 per one thousand trees. The utmost care should be observed in obtaining the hardy Western *Catalpa speciosa*. Unless it is specially desirable to start with the seed, by all means purchase one-year plants.

In growing plants the seed should be drilled in nursery rows about twenty-five or thirty feet apart, with rows four feet apart, covered very lightly, kept clean from grass and weeds and transplanted the first year.



A ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT.

There are ten thousand seeds to a pound. Thorough cultivation is essential. In the autumn, when the wood has ripened they are taken up, but in bunches of one hundred and heeled in for the winter. In spring, with the ground well prepared, furrow out deeply rows eight feet apart, and plant three eight-foot in the rows, the intermediate spaces being cultivated in potatoes, corn or some non-vining vegetable. Neither weeds nor grass should be permitted to grow, a sod of grass will quickly ruin the catalpa. The trees will thus form tall upright trunks, with few side branches. After the fifth year the shade and falling leaves will protect the tree, without further cultivation; it may be sooner. By the eighth year all trees should be removed except the permanent stand, not closer than 16x16 feet, in order to give room for the roots and each its share of moisture. This will give 170 permanent trees per acre.

The cost of planting will vary according to local conditions. The land should be such as would produce a fair crop of corn. Estimate per acre: Value of land, say \$30; preparing the land, \$35; 680 trees, \$83 feet; labor, planting and cultivating, \$5; interest and taxes, eight years, \$40; total, \$215.

At eight years three-fourths the trees should be removed, leaving permanent trees 16x16 feet, or 170 per acre. Each tree removed will supply two first-class posts worth ten cents each. Five hundred and ten trees removed make 1020 posts, worth \$100, being original cost with total expenses, leaving the plantation fully paid, including twenty years interest and taxes.

The remaining 170 trees will, by twentieth year, produce \$20 cross-ties worth, at sixty cents, \$102, or 250 feet lumber per tree, forty-two thousand feet b. m., which, at \$20 per thousand, is \$840.

The value of the land having been greatly improved, and a permanent income assured from the continued growths (as trees are quickly renewed from the stumps) equal to a capital investment of \$1000 at eight per cent. interest. Cost will vary with location and management.

Making High-Grade Milk.

In every large place there is an increasing number of people who are for one reason or another very particular about their milk, and willing to pay well for what is just to their liking. Some of the best paying dairies in New England cater to this class of trade which corresponds to the consumers of gilt-edge butter. But since much of the milk is wanted for infants and invalids, the market is far wider than for high-price butter. If the medical man can be persuaded to advise certified milk, many will buy it who never think of paying fancy prices for other food.

At the meeting of the Illinois Dairy Convention, E. B. Gurlier, the widely known authority on dairying, gave an address on "Sanitary Milk," which contains much information that is of the first importance to ambitious dairymen. Mr. Gurlier is a practical dairymen, supplying milk to city trade in Chicago, New York and Boston from his Illinois farm. In 1901 Mr. Gurlier sent bottled milk from his farm to the Paris Exposition. It was neither "pasteurized," sterilized nor unadorned. Yet the milk drawn on Mr. Gurlier's Illinois farm on the evening of Aug. 29 reached Major Henry Alvord of the United States Department of Agriculture in the Paris Exposition on Sept. 15 in good, sweet condition. It remained sweet till some time between Sept. 15 and 19.

Some of the points of importance in producing this "good milk," as told by Mr. Gurlier, are as follows:
"We will suppose, in the first place, that our cows are all healthy. That is a part of the work which is vital.

"Then we must have sound food. Do not forget that. You cannot feed mouldy hay, decayed silage or musty corn and make high-grade milk out of it. There has been a great deal of discussion of the effect on milk of feeding silage. Wherever there is any silage sold in the milk, if the silage fed is sound, it is where the milk absorbs the odor after the milk is taken from the cow. I am positive of that. I have followed it for four months. When I first commenced shipping my certified milk to Chicago I did not dare to feed silage. I did not know how it would do for milk for consumption. So the first winter I fed the cows that were

milking, think of cleaning their hands, no matter what they have been doing? I wish to impress on your minds the fact that we have no business to milk without cleaning our hands and also the udder of the cow."

Farming in Northern Vermont.

ADVANTAGES OF EARLY SEEDING.
When conditions are favorable, that is, when the soil has become fairly dry and warm, with a reasonable chance of remaining so, then it is better to sow oats, barley or wheat, and plant at least the early varieties of potatoes.

Early-sown grain may not produce as large a growth of straw as the later sown, but the straw will usually be brighter and filled with a heavier and better quality of grain.

Late-sown oats, particularly, are liable to grow rank and heavy, and as the straw is well lodged more or less badly. In such cases the straw will rust, rendering it unfit for anything but bedding, and the grain will be light and chaffy. Besides, where the land is seeded to grass along with the crop of oats, as is usually the case here in Vermont, the early sowing has several advantages over that done later. This is something worthy of consideration by every farmer.

"If there is not sufficient stable manure to use on land sown to oats, an application of two or three hundred pounds of any of the standard superphosphates will usually produce excellent results, as it will give the crop a fine start and is of especial help to the grass-seeding. Then, if in the succeeding autumn a moderate topdressing of manure can be given, it will answer a most excellent purpose, as it will be a mulch and stimulant for the young grass plants, enabling them to go through the winter in good shape.

EARLY POTATOES.

Every farmer requires a certain amount of early potatoes for home use, while some make a specialty of them for the market. Of course, this means the earliest possible planting and best management to insure the most profitable results. There should be first a warm, dry and moderately light or mellow soil and in good condition, as early potatoes, like barley, are a quick-growing crop and require the fertilizers to be in the best condition to be readily appreciated by the growing plants.

Special potato fertilizers here answer a good purpose as a supplement and help to produce a more healthy product, not so liable to blight and rot as where a large amount of manure is used. When the season is favorable this early seeding of grain and potatoes allows of the work being performed in a better manner and getting it out of the way for the later crops.

SOWING SUPERPHOSPHATE ON GRASS LANDS.
On most farms there is some meadow land that it is better not to plow and devote to other crops often than is necessary in order to get in a condition to seed to grass again. Such land is more especially adapted to grass than any other crop, and the idea should be to keep up its production as far as possible by other methods than plowing and devoting to other crops. After such land is properly seeded to grass, its production can usually be kept up for a considerable length of time by frequent applications of fertilizers. A small quantity every year is better than a large dressing.

If instead of using stable manure altogether for this purpose, although an excellent fertilizer—it should be alternated with some chemical grass fertilizer, I think that better results will be obtained and at less cost. Several years since we tried the experiment of sowing early in spring only one hundred pounds of superphosphate to the acre on a five-acre piece of meadow, commencing a year or two after seeding when there was a good stand of grass. The soil was a hard-pan, stony and somewhat moist. The result was surprising. For the one hundred pounds of fertilizer, costing, perhaps \$1.20, there was an estimated increased product of one-half ton of hay per acre, worth \$5. This practice was followed up for at least four years with like results, when it was found necessary to plow the land again. I think these grass fertilizers will produce better results where the land is a little moist than where dry. They should be applied early.

E. R. TOWLE.
Franklin County, Vt.

President Roosevelt on Farming.
One of the President's recent Western addresses on "Farmers and Wage Earners" included the following estimate of the conditions of agriculture and its relation to Government.

"In a country like ours it is fundamentally true that the well-being of the tiller of the soil and the wage-worker is the well-being of the State. If they are well off, then we need concern ourselves but little as to how other classes stand, for they will inevitably be well off too; and, on the other hand, there can be no real general prosperity unless based on the foundation of the prosperity of the wage-worker and the tiller of the soil.

"But the needs of these two classes are often not the same. The tiller of the soil has been of all our citizens the one on whom the least has been done in his ways of life and methods of industry by the giant industrial changes of the last half-century. There has been change with him, too, of course. He also can work to best advantage if he keeps in close touch with his fellows; and the success of the national Department of Agriculture has shown how much can be done for him by rational action of the Government. Nor is it only through the department that the Government can act. One of the greatest and most beneficent measures passed by the last Congress, or indeed by any Congress in recent years, is the Irrigation act, which will do for the States of the

Great Plains and the Rocky Mountain region at least as much as ever has been done for the States of the humid region by river and harbor improvements. Few measures that have been put upon the statute books of the nation have done more for the people than this law will, I firmly believe, directly and indirectly, accomplish for the States in question.

"There are a number of very important questions, such as that of good roads, with which the States alone can deal, and where all that the National Government can do is to co-operate with them. The same is true of the education of the American farmer. A number of the States have themselves started to help in this work, and the Department of Agriculture does an immense amount which is, in the proper sense of the word, educational, and educational in the most practical way.

"It is, therefore, clearly true that a great advance has been made in the direction of finding ways by which the Government can help the farmer to help himself—the only kind of help which a self-respecting man will accept, or I may add, which will in the end do him any good. Much has been done in these ways, and farm life and farm processes continually change for the better.

"The farmer himself still retains, because of his surroundings and the nature of his work, to a pre-eminent degree the qualities which we like to think of as distinctly American in considering our early history. The man who tills his own farm, whether on the prairie or in the woodland, the man who grows what we eat and the raw material which is worked up into what we wear, still exists more nearly under the conditions which obtained when our forefathers battled farmers' of '76 made good a nation than is true of any other class of people."

Salt as a Fertilizer.

All soils capable of producing crops contain all the soda and chlorine that ordinary plants require, so that salt cannot be considered a true or direct fertilizer. It belongs to the class of substances which benefit the crops by the work they do in the soil rather than by directly supplying plant food.

Several years ago we used to hear a great deal as to the favorable results obtained by the use of salt on grass and grain crops. Nowadays we seldom hear of them. One reason for this is that the potash salts—sulfate and muriate—now largely used, contain a considerable amount of salt; as they also supply potash they are more economical than salt. On very rich land, where grain crops frequently "lodge" or fall down, salt frequently prevents this trouble, giving a shorter and harder stem, delaying the ripening for a time.

It was first thought that the salt set free certain minerals in the soil, like silica and potash, which thus gave a harder and stiffer straw. To some extent this is probably true, but the chief effect of the salt now appears to be the retarding or checking of the nitrification processes. We know well from observation the tendency of plants, when growing in a very rich soil, to make a very rapid and tender growth. When we speak of a rich soil we refer to one containing a large quantity of soluble nitrogen. Salt delays the formation of this soluble form of nitrogen, so that the plant will make a slower but more uniform and solid growth. Salt also retards the formation of starch, and thus has a bad influence on the flavor of fruits. For this reason it is likely to make watery potatoes. Some plants, like asparagus, can utilize far more salt than others. Salt attracts and absorbs moisture.

Potatoes Well Started.

We plow in the fall, and use all the manure we have, plowing or harrowing it in. We do not believe in green-manure for potatoes. Our green-worm harrow with a cutaway and spring-tooth harrow, going as deep as we can without turning up the turf, and keep the harrow going just as long as we think it necessary. The old saying is, "Make it as mellow as an ash heap."

Old ground we plow again in spring, and whether for corn or for grain or grass, the soil should be thoroughly mixed. Ground cannot be harrowed too much. We furrow with a drill, and drop potatoes by hand, fifteen inches apart, dropping phosphate in the furrow when we think it is necessary. We used fertilizers for the first time last year with good results. Before the corn or potatoes are up we go over the piece with a Breed weeder, and continue to do so, even after the plants are quite large, then use a cultivator. Our potatoes are hoed with a horse hoe, which does nearly all of the work.

ELIOT FERRARD.
Washington County, Me.

Farmers in the Northeastern States used to rely upon Canada as the source of their best hired help. Thousands of brawny Nova Scotians, New Brunswickers and Quebec Frenchmen came South each spring tempted by higher wages than prevailed in their own land. But now the Canadians themselves are short-handed. The surplus workers have gone into the factories and mines. This spring very large numbers have gone West to secure homes for themselves. Farm hands are scarce in Ontario, and wages in some districts have gone up to \$25 per month and board, for an eight or nine months job. This home demand cuts off much of the usual stream of emigration to the States, thus aggravating the already distressing lack of farm hands in New England and the Northeast. The help available is frequently of such low grade that the farmer almost prefers to go without than to have such specimens on his premises. But wages are mounting upward fully as fast as quality is running down. Crops and prices will need to be good to bring farmers out financially whole at the end of the year.

We Want a BRIGHT BOY to work after School Hours



Any boy who reads this advertisement can start in business on his own account selling **The Saturday Evening Post**. No money required. He can begin next week. Many boys make over \$5 a week. Some are making \$15.

THE work can be done after school hours and on Saturdays. Write to us at once and we will send full instructions and 10 copies of the magazine free. These are sold at 5 cents a copy and provide the necessary money to order the next week's supply at the wholesale price. \$25.00 in cash prices next month.

THE CURTIS PUBLISHING COMPANY
487 Arch Street, Philadelphia

Poultry

Plan of a Veteran Breeder.

Near the Massachusetts shore, the well-known fancier, R. G. Buntington, has for twenty-five years or more carried on a real poultry paradise of fruit, flowers and feathered beauty. His neighbors say his farm is two stories high because a good part of it is covered with pear and apple trees under which the fowls find shade and part material for the egg crop. In some places there are plum trees and blackberry vines growing under and between the larger trees, thus making a third "story" between hens and pears or apples.

This most satisfactory type of house is a continuous gambrel roof structure, shingled and battened, divided into rooms ten feet square, with slat or wire partitions boarded at the bottom. There is a 2 1/2 foot alleyway along the north side, windows opened by pulleys, and a hoghead outside to catch the roof water, which is drawn inside through a faucet in the side of the house. House is whitewashed and battens painted. The yards are ten feet wide, and most of them are very long to secure plenty of pasture and shade under the trees. A breeding flock of ten to sixteen birds is kept in each pen.

Breeding for Eggs.

A record of the best layers is being kept at Maine Experiment Station with the aid of trap nests. From the best hens will be raised both cockerels and pullets with the aim of building a strain remarkable for heavy laying. Some of the poor hens might have been picked out on sight as lazy and beefy in appearance, but in other cases the bad layers seemed as smart, well formed and vigorous as any. The trap nest is the only sure way unless each hen tested can be kept with a flock of another breed laying eggs of different color. The illustration shows No. 40, which was one of the champions of the flock, having 308 eggs to her credit for the record of the year. A dozen pullets from such a mother should make a flock worth having as a source of the family egg supply.

During a recent conversation with the author and manager of this very promising attempt to develop an extra prolific laying strain, Professor Gowell expressed himself as well pleased with progress so far. When asked how he proposed to give farmers the benefit of the improvement, he replied that the station is sending out cockerels descended from prolific laying hens, themselves bred to males of the same selected strain. Thus the cockerels sent out would inherit the prolific tendency from both sides, and would help grade up the flocks to which they were brought. Possibly eggs from the best layers have been sent out also. The best ones are put together in a pen where each hen has a record of from 200 to 240 eggs a year, and from this pen the pedigree stock is bred. All the pens are headed with cockerels from hens with records of two hundred eggs or more a year.

The past year over one thousand chickens were raised, about five hundred of which were White Wyandotte and White Plymouth Rock cockerels. The cockerels were offered for sale to the farmers and poultry breeders of the State, but all the pullets were kept. It is hoped that by the repeated distribution of these cockerels throughout the State that the average yearly egg yield will be increased.

The chickens are raised in individual brooders placed in small houses about eight by ten feet in size. If not allowed free range, they are confined in very large yards. The design of poultry house recommended by the station is an open shed built up three feet from the bottom, with a three-foot open space below the roof. Over this space a heavy muslin curtain is fastened down tight on winter nights and stormy days. A tight roosting box is provided with a curtain which is let down at night. Perfect health and also the best results in egg yields have been secured with this style of house.

The work has been confined to Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes and Brahmas, because these breeds are among the most popular in Maine and because accommodations do not permit inclusion of more breeds. Other breeds, such as Rhode Island Reds and Leghorns, must be developed by the breeder himself, or they are developed by Professor Gowell. It is work that cannot practically be carried on by farmers, because of the great amount of care and attention required to work the trap nests and keep records. It might pay a specialist to bring up a breed in this way in order to sell eggs and stock, but he would not be likely to try it merely for the improvement of his own flock. The Maine station is aiming to benefit the poultry growers of the State. Even a slight improvement of all the flocks would amount to a very large sum.

At this time cockerels are being raised from the hens that gave over two hundred eggs last year for our breeding last season. Among the two hundred additional hens undergoing test this year, it is hoped to find other large yielders and that next year we may have some pens where both the males and females will be from large producing dams. The three breeds taken for this work are kept separate and pure.

Of the 260 hens put into the test, five died during the year and nineteen were stolen. Of the 236 remaining, thirty-nine each laid 100 eggs and thirty-five laid less than one hundred each. Nine of the fifty-six Wyandottes each laid more than 100 eggs, and seven laid less than one hundred each. Six of the fifty-four light Brahmas each laid more than 100 eggs, and six laid less than one hundred each. All birds were put to the test Nov. 1, at which time some of the earliest ones had been laying for about two weeks. The year commenced Nov. 1 for all birds that laid during that month. Some of the later hatched ones did not commence to lay until January and February and they were given a full year after they had commenced.

Poultry Market Quiet.

No special features are reported this week. Receipts of live poultry continue light, and prices hold the high level, which they have maintained for some time at Boston. New York dealers report increasing receipts, and believe that prices will decline slightly. At present good hens bring 14 to 14 1/2 cents in either market.

Attracted by the proportionately high prices paid for live poultry of late, Western shippers have been trying an experiment in the shape of a patent shipping car called the "Palace." The plan of the car is individual compartments. It was found that the small-sized fowls gained in weight, while the larger ones lost. This was due, it is said, to the cramped quarters, eight inches square, the same for all sized fowls. No provision is made for getting out dead fowls while en route. The system is, however, generally praised, and poultry shippers say when certain changes have been made, the new car will prove a success.

Dressed poultry is dull at about former quotations. Receipts at Boston Tuesday were 177 packages, and for the week 379 packages. These figures, compared with 2875 packages for the corresponding week of last year, show that the supply arriving is comparatively light. Squab and regular broilers are bringing good prices, also other strictly fancy chickens. Receipts at New York are moderate, but larger supplies are said to be on the way. A few spring ducks are arriving. Tame squabs a little higher. There is a fair trade in frozen poultry.

Eggs Quiet and Steady.

Arrivals have been large, but the demand for Easter season and for cold storage tended to steady the market, and have remained about as quiet as of late. The demand for duck eggs is notable exception, these having declined sharply after Easter. The demand for goose eggs being mostly for the Easter trade, as usual, buyers were scarce after last Saturday, and the price was out in two. Duck eggs, however, are in considerable request for the regular trade, and, therefore, declined less abruptly. For nearby fancy eggs the top figure is 17 cents for large lots, except for special marks, which often sell regularly at several cents above the market. At New York receipts are large (29,508 cases Wednesday) and the market tends to decline. Dealers and storage buyers look for lower prices. Top grade is 15 1/2 to 16 cents.

New egg rules have been adopted by the New York Mercantile Exchange in which many changes are made. The revised regulations in regard to qualities and packing are given as follows:

Fresh gathered extras shall be free from small and dirty eggs, and shall contain fresh, reasonably full, strong, sweet eggs, as follows: From Feb. 1 to May 31, ninety per cent., and for the balance of the year eighty per cent.

The balance—other than the loss—may be slightly defective in strength or fullness, but must be sweet. There may be a total average loss of one dozen per case, but if the loss exceeds this by more than fifty per cent., the eggs shall be a good delivery upon allowance of the excess. When sold "storage packed," extra may not contain an average of more than twelve cracked or checked eggs per case.

Fresh gathered firsts shall be reasonably clean and of good average size, and shall contain fresh, reasonably full, strong, sweet eggs as follows: Feb. 1 to May 31, eighty-five per cent.; June 1 to Oct. 31, sixty-five per cent.; November and December, fifty per cent.; January, sixty-five per cent.

The balance—other than the loss—may be slightly defective in strength or fullness, but must be sweet. From Feb. 1 to May 31, there may be a total average loss of one dozen per case, but if the loss exceeds this by more than fifty per cent., the eggs shall be a good delivery upon allowance of the excess. From May 31 to Feb. 1, there may be a total average loss of 1 1/2 dozen per case, but if the loss exceeds this by more than one hundred per cent., the eggs shall be a good delivery upon allowance of the excess. When sold "storage packed," fresh gathered firsts must not contain an average of more than eighteen cracked or checked eggs per case.

Fresh gathered seconds shall be reasonably clean and of fair average size and shall contain fresh, reasonably full eggs as follows: Feb. 1 to May 31, seventy per cent.; for the balance of the year, forty-five per cent. The balance—other than the loss—may be defective in strength or fullness, but must be merchantable stock. From Feb. 1 to May 31, there may be a total average loss of two dozen per case, but if the loss exceeds this by more than fifty per cent., the eggs shall be a good delivery upon allowance of the excess. For the balance of the year, there may be a total average loss of four dozen per case.

Extras: Firsts, seconds and No. 1 dories must be in new cases, good quality, smooth and clean. Fillers shall be of substantial quality, sweet and dry, with flats or other suitable substitutes under bottom layers and over tops, and sweet, dry excelsior or other suitable packing under bottom and over tops.

If rats, seconds and No. 1 dories shall inspect in quality according to the rules, but be deficient, not to exceed ten per cent. in cases and flats on tops and bottoms, they shall be a good delivery.

Thirds, No. 2 dories and checks. Cases shall be new, or good uniform second-hand. Fillers shall be of substantial quality, sweet and dry, with sweet suitable packing under bottoms and over tops.

Storage Packed. When sold as storage packed, all grades must be in new thirty-dozen white wood cases, well seasoned, smooth, clean and substantial. Fillers, dry, sweet, medium, No. 1, or other good substantial straw board, flats under bottom

layers and over tops. The packing shall be dry, sweet excelsior packing under bottoms and over tops, unless otherwise specified. To be a good delivery, all eggs must be packed in thirty-dozen cases.

Horticultural

Plant the Unused Spaces.

The dream of the thrifty owner of farm land is to see every square foot of surface doing its best, and the further down it works also the better he likes it. Such a man is delighted to find a neglected corner or margin that can be put to some use. Careful study will find such spots on most farms about the buildings and along the division lines. Some put trees or vines quite well adapted to a location which is often quite fertile, but which from its position cannot be cultivated.

Cherries, mulberries or Concord grapes will do surprisingly well in a neglected corner, likewise quinces, if the soil is moist. Blackberries will thrive, but are likely to become a nuisance. Currants and gooseberries in a heavy soil will stand such conditions, but the fruit will be inferior. Strong-growing apples like Ben Davis, or pears like Kiefer, will thrive somewhat under hardship, and after reaching fair size can be grafted to better kinds.

If fruit is not wanted, sugar maples or Norway spruce will make full use of what space they can get, and will prove convenient sources of sweets and chewing-gum for the planter's children and grandchildren, besides being handsome and satisfactory trees. Whatever is planted, there should be proper thought of its future growth, and it should neither be planted nor trained in a way to shade the house too much and cause dampness, or to decay the roofs of farm buildings. The pruning saw will adjust the growth to requirements if reasonable care is taken when planting.

Around the porches vines are commonly grown for ornament and shade, the grape and gourd being the only ones of much practical use. Some varieties of the hop are very ornamental. The willow leaf limbea is sometimes grown in such places trained over wire netting. The leaves and big clusters of pods are handsome.

Sometimes there is quite a large strip of ground which for some reason has not been put to much use. A Missouri gardener writes: "On a strip of land five feet wide and 200 in length, where weeds formerly grew (the leaves and stalks of which have formed a loose rich soil), I planted several rows of Gregg and Cuthbert raspberries, a bed of strawberries of a self-pollinating variety, in rows two feet apart and the plants fifteen inches apart in the rows, and a number of gooseberry and currant plants. From this strip, which I gave especial care, I supplied our table throughout the season and sold several bushels of fruit. I do not refer, of course, to the first year's product, which was small. Raspberries and asparagus, too, are excellent for fence corners and furnish many a toothsome dish. The asparagus bed, once established, requires little care, only an occasional weeding and thinning being necessary."

But asparagus or rhubarb should not be set where they cannot be easily taken care of. There is very little satisfaction in a small and inferior supply which comes late in the season and stops early. These plants will repay for high culture even if only a few roots are grown. G. B. FISKE, Middlesex County, Mass.

Quince Culture in New England.

Few fruit crops are more uncertain than the quince in New England. Trees (bushes) are planted in large numbers, but few produce paying crops of fruit. It fruits every year, but is not allowed to overbear, and when skillfully treated the crop is often more profitable than the apple, though the demand for it is limited, being used only for candying.

To be successful a strong, rich, moist, but well underdrained soil must be selected. A northern or western exposure is to be preferred to a southerly or easterly one. The land should be made fine and mellow by plowing or spading. Should the surface soil be poor, fine, well-rotted stable manure or ground bone should be worked into the soil for filling in about the roots.

Never use fertilizers containing the potash salts or nitrate of soda in contact with the roots. Strong No. 1 two-year-old trees are the best for planting. They should be stocky and from three to four feet in height. The roots of the quince being more numerous and finer than those of other fruit trees, need more care in planting. Before this is done all roots that will mat together and prevent the fine soil from being pressed firmly about the others should be removed. Some growers prune the young tree to a "whip," i. e., remove all lateral branches, and cut the cane back to about two feet, while others cut back the top and the laterals to two or three buds.

The best distance, perhaps, is 12x12 feet, though if kept well headed in 10x10 feet may be sufficient. In planting, only fine, mellow and rich soil should be used about the roots, while the subsoil, dug out of the holes, should be spread loosely on the surface. The soil must be pressed very firmly in contact with the roots.

The best success will be obtained if the land is kept cultivated continually, but the fruit may be grown under the mulch system if the soil is naturally rich or if a large amount of plant food is applied to the surface. Whatever the system, the trees should be made to produce from one to two feet of new growth every year.

The "bush" and "tree" forms are both used, but it matters little which. The bush form is the most natural, requires less care, and if one trunk is destroyed, the others take up the growth and continue fruiting, while with the tree form it requires more care, and if the trunk is injured from any cause it will

take several years to grow a new one from suckers that come up from the base. The cause of many failures with this crop is the injury by insects or fungus pests. The round-headed apple borer often attacks the trunk, and may be generally found on the south side working in the bark or sapwood. It works rapidly, and the trees should be examined twice a year, in May and August, and all borers found dug out with a knife, covering all injured places with linseed-oil paint, containing a little kerosene oil.

The pear-leaf blight is sure to attack the leaves unless the trees are in a vigorous condition, as does the "elder apple" fungus, but they may be prevented from doing injury if sprayed with the bordeaux mixture as directed by the bulletins of the experiment stations. Young trees may be expected to begin bearing at from three to five years from planting, and to bear every year if thinned and kept in a vigorous condition. The fruit when shipped to distant markets is not so profitable as when sold at retail in the local market, the price in the former averaging about \$3 per barrel, while in the latter the price is about fifty cents per peck. In picking and handling the greatest care must be exercised, as the slightest bruise or scratch of the skin causes a brown stain. This is one reason why the fruit packed in barrels sells at so low price, every specimen being more or less disfigured, while for the local market packed in market baskets every specimen may be perfect.

The varieties of most value are Rea's, Orange and Champion, in the order named. Rea's (mammoth) is very early, bears young, is large and of a golden-yellow color. The Orange is equally good in quality and is a close second to Rea's, but not quite as large or early. The Champion is hardy, vigorous and productive, but does not color up as early; in fact, is seldom as brightly colored as the first two. S. T. MAYNARD, Northboro, Mass.

Apples in Better Demand.

Now that most farmers have sold their apples, the perverse public seems to have taken a fancy to buy more freely, and prices have advanced somewhat.

Receipts are rather light, and most of the poorer grades have been closed out, so that most new arrivals are of good quality. Some lots of Maine Baldwin have sold as high as \$3. York & Whitney quote the ordinary run of Maine Baldwin at \$1.75 to \$2, and higher when of good color and size, such reaching \$2 to \$2.50. Russets \$2 to \$2.50, with some poor lots at lower figures. Storage lots are still appearing, and there is a large stock still in the houses. O. W. Mead & Co. quote about as above for Northern apples, and say that the great bulk of sales of nearby apples range from \$1 to \$2, whether Russets or Baldwins. They report that nearly twenty thousand barrels are still in storage in Boston.

Not much is being done in the export trade, most lots being too soft for the voyage. The total apple shipments to European ports during the week ending April 11 were 8821 barrels, including 3049 barrels from Boston. The shipments to Liverpool were 6647 barrels. The shipments for the same week last year were 2907 barrels. The total shipments since the opening of the season have been 2,455,519 barrels, against 793,225 barrels for the same time last year. The total shipments this season include 808,333 barrels from Boston.

A number of the farmers in western New York who stored apples last fall in hopes of securing a better price during the winter, have found that the best-laid plans sometimes fail, and at present most of them are unloading their crops at whatever price they can get. None of the produce buyers are shipping such fruit, consequently the only places to unload are the evaporators and older mills. G. S. Randall & Son, Rochester, purchased over a thousand bushels last week of hand-picked apples which were at once made into cider which finds a ready sale, as it is of superior quality to that made in the fall.

Strawberry Culture.

The soil should be well pulverized and compacted before setting the plants. It is better to get the plants as near as possible where they are to be set, as they quickly dry in exposure to the air. Their rows should be 2 1/2 feet apart, and the plants set the same distance apart in the row, thus allowing machine culture both ways. Make the soil firm about the plant by pressing down very hard and stir the surface little in order to hold the moisture, using a light weeder for this purpose.

For regular cultivation use a twelve-toothed cultivator, never working the ground deeper than one inch. In order to prevent getting too deep, it is a good plan to turn the cultivator around so that the teeth point backwards. Another point in favor of this plan is that the cultivator running this way will gather stones between the rows instead of throwing them against the plants.

In September I plant barley between the rows to hold the weeds in shape and protect the plants. F. G. TICE, Oswego, N. Y.

How to Tell the Evergreens.

White pine—Five needles in a bunch; scales of cone thickened at the top.

Sooty pine—Two bluish green, short needles in a bunch.

Austrian pine—Two long, dark green needles in a bundle.

Fir—Erect cone; flat, spreading needles, scattered singly.

Norway spruce—Large, hanging cones; scattered needles point all ways.

Hemlock—Small hanging cones; flat spray.

Larch—Many needles in a cluster; fall off each year; erect cones.

Red cedar—Bluish berries; sharp, prickly spray.

Arbor vitae—Flat branches; cones few-

scaled and only two seeds under each. White cedar—Cones roundish with four to eight seeds under each. Pitch pine—Dark, stiff needles arranged in three's.

High Prices for Choice Hay.

General conditions are about as noted last week, but choice hay grows more scarce every week. Prices at New York show some advance for nearly all grades, while some other markets report no change.

Boston is particularly well supplied with the-grade hay, but the surplus is not large enough to be taken prices. Choice hay is eagerly taken up at full or extra quotations.

Best grades of hay are in strong demand at New York and prices show an advance. Medium and low grades sell less readily. The surplus of rye straw is cleared away and prices have recovered somewhat. Receipts of hay at New York last week were 6400 tons, compared with 8100 tons the preceding week. About ten thousand bales went for export. In Brooklyn market prices are very firm, and even the No. 2 grades are in demand at full quotations. Most Western and Southern markets report light receipts, with demand and prices steady. St. Louis reports larger receipts and prices 50 cents to \$1 per ton lower.

Following are the highest prices, as quoted by the Hay Trade Journal, for the markets mentioned: These figures are for extra qualities, which of course do not comprise any large proportion of the sales, but are given as indicators of the state of the markets: Boston \$19.50, New York \$21, Jersey City \$22, Philadelphia \$21, Brooklyn \$21, Buffalo \$17, Pittsburgh \$18, Kansas City \$12.50, Duluth \$12.50, Minneapolis \$12.50, Baltimore \$13.50, Chicago \$16, St. Louis \$16, Cincinnati \$18.50, San Francisco wheat hay \$13.50, Montreal \$9.50, Cleveland \$17, New Orleans \$20.50, Washington \$18.50.

The farmer's horse is apt to have many days of comparative idleness in winter, days when the weather is such that it is better that the team should remain idle than be kept out of doors. If there are many such days in succession, and they extend to weeks, it will be advisable to lessen the food given or reduce its quality. The corn, cracked corn or corn meal that have been given with the oats may be dropped and bran substituted, and the hay usually fed changed for clover or for a good quality of oat hay or fine hay. This will have much of the renovating effect that is derived from a week at grass in the summer or fall, after the work of the summer is over. Even when the weather is in well to give the horse a little exercise every day when the weather is not too stormy. The change in feed and the exercise will prevent that very unpleasant "stoking up" or swelling of the hind legs and stiffening of the joints which so often comes upon the highly fed horse kept in idleness. These swellings are really more serious than they appear, for while they disappear usually upon the return of the hardy days, they are more or less a symptom of blood poisoning or an impure condition of the blood, and when it becomes habitual is looked upon as an unsoundness. Many give diuretics, as resin, saltpetre or turpentine to relieve such cases, but their frequent use weakens the urinary organs, and we prefer to trust to a preventive as above, and to fomentations with warm water as a relief, with plenty of rubbing when the case is very bad.

The late Sir J. H. Lewis of England told how a farmer might improve his soil easily and cheaply by the use of sheep. The soil was first fed to produce good grasses. Then a flock of sheep were allowed to run over it during the day and yarded at night, when they were fed one pound of cottonseed cake to each sheep. The manure was thus very evenly distributed over the land, the weeds and bushes were killed and the land soon made rich. A method we like better is putting flocks of one hundred sheep in plots of 2x22 yards each, with movable fence. This would enclose 484 square yards in eighty-eight yards of fence. If moved daily they would cover an acre in ten days, and the manure from the thousand pounds of cottonseed cake would be more evenly distributed than by another method. If three acres were devoted to one hundred sheep, they could be returned to the same lots at a month's end. With a movable fence or hurdle properly made, it would not be difficult to move the fence each day, as only three sides, or sixty-six yards, would need to be moved.

A Wisconsin cranberry grower asserts that the time is not far distant when this fruit can be produced for three cents a quart and still leave the grower a large margin of profit.

The St. Louis World's Fair management has planned an exhibition on a scale about twice as large as that of any previous international exhibition. The cost of the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago was about 10 million dollars; the estimated cost of the St. Louis World's Fair is nearly 40 million dollars. The live-stock interests at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition are likely to be given proportionate attention. Classification in the live-stock department will include all recognized improved breeds. It is expected that the friends of all the varieties of live stock, pigeons, poultry, pet stock, as well as horses, cattle and other ruminants and swine, will be glad to see the exhibition, which has been given them on any previous occasion.

The National Bureau of Labor finds that of 2000 counties the average price of 140 wheat is higher in 1903 than in 1901, and that of 65 was lower.

The United States officials have finished burning the hay and disinfesting the premises in Chester, where the foot and mouth disease has been located. They advise not to restock again in less than a year's time. Mr. Wells, who was a heavy loser from the disease, says: "I intend to buy some swelling heifers and turn them out, and next fall I shall expect to find them with calves by their sides, and in this way I hope to get my herd well started for another year, or as soon as it will be safe to put them into my barn." The last lot of hay burned was owned by F. W. Adams and amounted to about forty tons. Mr. Adams received an average price of \$8 per ton.

Considering the commerce of the principal American countries, the figures show for Mexico a growth in imports from 20 millions in 1873 to 62 millions in 1901, and in exports from 28 millions in 1873 to 33 millions in 1901, the excess of imports in 1901 being 29 millions. This adverse trade balance, however, is largely made up by the exportations of silver, which in 1901 amounted to 35 millions. The British West Indies in 1901 had imports from 21 millions in 1873 to 33 millions in 1901, and their exports from 23 millions to 29 millions, the excess of imports in 1901 being 3 millions. The figures include inter-island commerce. Taking up the principal British Indian colonies separately, it may be said that the imports during 1901 were: Barbados 5 millions, Jamaica 8 millions and Trinidad 12 millions, and the exports in that year, Barbados 4 millions, Jamaica 9 millions and Trinidad 11 millions. Canada's imports increased from 74 millions in 1870 to 212 millions in 1902, and her exports from 73 millions to 211 millions, the trade balance being \$30,000,000 excess of imports in 1902; though in most of the years of the 1880s the figures show an excess of exports ranging from 2 to 33 millions. Argentina's imports increased from 47 millions in 1870

to 100 millions in 1901, and her exports from 29 to 161 millions, exports thus exceeding imports in 1901 by 52 millions. Brazil increased her imports from 20 millions in 1870 to 28 millions in 1901, and her exports from 82 millions to 157 millions, the trade balance being an excess of 101 millions of exports. Chile's imports increased from 28 millions in 1870 to 40 millions in 1901, and her exports from 27 to 42 millions, exports exceeding imports in 1901 by 12 millions. For the United States, the figures show a growth in imports from 665 millions in 1870 to 900 millions in 1902, and in exports from 316 millions to 1355; the trade balance, which in 1870 was 69 millions excess of imports, was in 1902, 452 million dollars excess of exports. The excess of exports over imports for the United States alone is greater than that of all other countries of the world combined. In the above comparisons domestic exports have been used wherever practicable.

Sleeping cars will be run on the Appledy electric roads in Ohio in the near future. The Dayton, Springfield & Urbana Electric Railway, one of the roads of the system, will double track its line from Dayton to Springfield, a distance of twenty-seven miles, this spring.

The International Agricultural Congress at Rome, Tuesday, postponed to the next congress further consideration of Count von Scherwin's proposition for a European Zollverein against American competition. The discussion on what is styled "Europe's declaration of war against America" aroused great interest.

The cattle epidemic seems to be on the decline, only three new herds having been found during the week ending Wednesday. They were large herds, however, numbering seventy-five altogether. One of these herds was outside the two infected counties and in the town of Hampstead, thus approaching near enough the Massachusetts line to excite fears that one may yet be found in the northern part of the State last named.

The growth in the production of silk manufactures in the United States, a product which is wholly from imported material, of which is brought from the other side of the globe—is rapid and interesting. In 1870 importations of raw silk were but a half million pounds; in 1880, 2 1/2 millions; in 1890, 13 millions; in 1900, 13 millions and in 1903 seem likely to be 15 million pounds.

"Wolff" is a profitable occupation in Wyoming just now. The big bounties being offered by the stockmen and State make it worth while to go after the pest. The bounty on a wolf is \$100. Wheatland captured two gray wolves and four teen pups, which netted him \$200 in bounties.

The New York canal improvement measure provides for the issue of bonds to the amount of \$100,000,000 for a term of eighteen years to defray the expenses of constructing a one-thousand-ton barge canal, which will follow the line of the present Erie canal only in part, provision being made for a change of route in a number of places. It will also arrange for the improvement of the Oswego and Champlain canals. At present the canal has a minimum width of seventy-five feet and a minimum depth of twelve feet. The bill, before it becomes a law, must be voted upon favorably by the people of the State at the election in November next. It is the opinion of the advocates that the proposed improved waterway will be of as great service in the future as the original canal was in its day.

The statistical department of Canadian commerce just issued by the treasury bureau of statistics, covering the commerce of the seven months ending with January, 1903, shows that Canada imported from the United States during that time \$57,000,000 worth of merchandise, against \$2,000,000 worth from the United Kingdom and \$21,000,000 worth from all parts of the world.

The bank deposits of Kansas now amount to \$3,000,000 more than any previous high-water mark, according to the quarterly statement of Kansas banking institutions, issued yesterday. The previous high mark in the State's bank deposits was on Sept. 30, 1901, when they aggregated \$87,181,194. The deposits are now more than \$90,000,000, or more than \$60 for every man, woman and child in the State.

In seven years the production of gold in the United States has doubled from \$40,000,000 in 1895 to \$80,000,000 in 1902. In 1873 the world's total yield of gold was but \$96,000,000. In 1902 it was approximately \$250,000,000, an increase of two hundred per cent. in the twenty-nine years. Government figures of gold production in 1902— not yet published—are: Colorado \$27,500,429, California \$17,124,941, Alaska \$7,823,730, Montana \$4,124,356, South Dakota \$7,390,057, Arizona \$4,155,028, Nevada \$3,214,212 and Utah \$3,700,330. South Africa produced but \$36,000,000 gold in 1902, although in 1900, before the Boer war, it produced \$73,000,000, nearly \$8,000,000 less than the United States production in 1902.

Postoffice inspectors engaged in the investigation of department affairs will make a careful inquiry into the charges that certain wagon manufacturers have been given preference in advance information about the estimate of rural free delivery routes.

GRAVES' MANGE CURE

For Dogs, Cats, Horses, Cattle and Sheep. All Skin Diseases they are subject to can be cured by this valuable remedy. Also

GRAVES' MEDICATED SOAP

For Fleas and Lice for Dogs, Cats and Horses. Sure to kill them quick.

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Originator and Breeder of the Celebrated Autocrat Strain of

LIGHT BRAHMAS

Also Breeder of

DARK BRAHMAS,



TELEPHONE NO. 3707, MAIN.

How the May flowers will come up?

If you want to know whether you're on the voting list—why, ask the ploughman.

On fetti in Paris is sometimes thrown by persons with cold fingers.

A rolling Stone may gather no moss, but is apparently able to accumulate voters.

The sun must at least be given credit for having tried his best to come out and shine.

After the coming celebration, what we don't know about Emerson will certainly be hardly worth knowing.

After all, the fact that last March was the warmest March in one hundred years has been of very little comfort during the past week.

Whoever dared the law the other day by a theft of some \$3.50 worth of violets must either have been very conceited or very much in love.

"A young physician," says a contemporary headline, "takes a bride from Brookline." Alas, our interest slackens when we read further that she was merely his own bride.

The advice comes from Winchester to beware of any man who tries to make you a present of a lot of old telegraph poles. The Greeks bearing gifts were in exactly the same class.

Co-education could hardly expect anything but trouble from the combination of a Chicago broker, a French tutor and a pretty and pleasing co-ed all mixed up together in an Alliance Française.

The ability to give one's wife a million-dollar present sinks to insignificance compared with the difficulty of being wealthy and keeping one's marriage ceremony to those whom it chiefly concerns.

A great step has been taken in establishing a real close rapport with the Chinese Empire. The diplomacy of the Flowery Kingdom is said to have sent us a Chinese minister, who is also a baseball enthusiast.

The New York mill girls who have advertised for a "Moses" to lead them out of certain trade difficulties rather stretch the figure of speech in offering to reward their deliverer with the hand of the priestess among them.

"Very job," writes a Washington correspondent, "interests the whole of society." And yet there are some persons who would rather be interested in the whole of society than in the whole of their own.

If the latest reports from Dr. Wiley's food investigations are correct, it is only a matter of time before we find ourselves face to face with the advertising campaign of a beauty food. The health foods will certainly have to change their inducements.

Very little notice has been taken of the uncomplimentary remarks made about us by Miss Cecilia Milow, but they are very well worth thinking over. Miss Milow has put the finger of her opinion exactly upon some of the things that we are not quite ready to confess to ourselves.

We don't wish to appear over modest, but it is hard to believe the statement of a contemporary that our own Easter parade was probably unexcelled anywhere in the world. We can even remember a time when we were vain gloriously satisfied with the notion that we stood a bit aside from the fashions.

The poultrymen may be the first to start anything like a combination of agricultural producers. The proposed union of duck raisers of New England, Pennsylvania and Long Island has been termed a "trust," but it seems to intend nothing more than a co-operative association for buying grain, securing transportation and arranging for selling, but with no idea of raising prices or regulating the supply.

Whether the new Maine County law reads porcupines or plain hedgehog, the result will be the same for the unlucky animal in question. Hundreds have already been killed, two men having destroyed fifty-six in one day. It is thought that besides steering numerous quaters into the pockets of enterprising hunters, the measure will check the serious injury to the spruce forests said to be caused by the hedgehog's activities.

Oiled roadways are used to some extent in the Pacific West. The road is soaked four to six inches deep with the oil, which stops all dust and makes the earth tough and very elastic. The resulting roadway is claimed to be in some ways equal to asphalt. In the small towns it is said the farmers bought oil and sprinkled the road themselves. It remains to be seen whether the cost and grade of oil and the qualities of earth and climate will permit the adoption of the idea for Eastern roadways.

Canadian farmers are anxious for free rural mail delivery like that enjoyed this side the boundary line. They argue that one carrier traveling at \$2 a day for 123 families is better than for 123 members of these families to travel to town daily. It is also claimed that free delivery will increase the value of Canadian farms. The country being one of small population and great distances the service would be costly, but the farmers will hardly be satisfied until some effort is made to extend facilities in that direction.

Farm products have advanced in price more than any other class of commodities, according to recently published figures of the Federal labor bureau. From 1896 to 1902 the value of farm products rose nearly sixty-seven per cent., while that of clothing increased only eleven per cent., of fuel and lighting only forty-two per cent., of lumber and building only twenty-eight per cent., and of food only eighteen per cent. Thus the farmers have received greater benefit than any other class during the period of good times.

We suspect unashamedly behind the letter supposed to have been written by an unmarried Boston maiden to President Roosevelt, and denouncing Secretary Moody for sending "all the nice young men" to the Philippines. If the letter is genuine, however, it serves to point an interesting

contrast. Here are the mothers of Massachusetts mourning the fact that they have never been asked in matrimony, even while the widows of Toledo, O., are forming a society to do away with the outward manifestations of grief over departed partners.

The "telephone mail delivery" is the latest annex proposed for the country service. The sender who wished to use it would attach to his letter a special stamp, which would empower the postmaster at the receiving station to open the letter and telephone its contents to the person addressed. This plan, where telephones are common, might save valuable time at much less cost than by full service by telephone or telegraph. Something of the kind is needed to supplement the present very unsatisfactory special-delivery mail service by messenger.

Rivalry with the United States. The emigration movement from the North-western wheat fields of our country to Canada promises to assume large proportions, and it was primarily induced by the statement that Great Britain was to engage in a gigantic endeavor to increase the population of the New Dominion in the regions where wheat can be cultivated in much larger quantities than it will supply Europe with the breadstuffs that have been furnished hitherto by the United States. A determined effort will be made to have the unemployed lands in Canada settled by European immigrants, and millions will be expended to bring about the result desired through subsidies to British passenger lines and railways, and in many other ways.

This rivalry with our own country may have a bad effect upon our shipments abroad, temporarily at least, until we find some means to offset it by our quicker methods of doing business, and by our indomitable pluck in overcoming difficulties that may at first appear insurmountable. We do not believe Boston will suffer in the long run as a port of departure for wheat from Canada, for if this territory produces more breadstuffs than formerly, it will naturally need greater facilities for shipment, and these cannot be supplied by the Dominion, unless it displays greater enterprise and monetary stimulus from abroad than has been shown in the past.

However, the American wheat growers who go over the border will be more progressive than any agriculturists from the Old World, and instead of becoming more Canadian than the Canadians themselves, will retain their own national ideas and a love for Republican institutions that may result in a peaceful wedding of two "fortresses," which many people believe should not be kept apart forever. We are not looking at the New Dominion with covetous eyes, far from it, but are willing to trust to the logic of events to bring about a desirable state of affairs that will enable us to preserve our agricultural supremacy.

Roosevelt and the Navy. The President's defense of the army in the Philippines, as expressed in a recent speech, was as just as it was timely. Our soldiers have met with an abuse that was unequalled for certain over-seas-reformers, who, in their endeavor to bring to light some military shortcomings, have failed to discover the causes that created them. Of course there is no excuse for cruelty or brutality in the treatment of a fallen foe, but it should be remembered that in many "wilds" the old belief, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, still exists, and that it found expression in the acts of a few men connected with the army in the Philippine possessions. These men, who were few and far between, and they were manifesting a retaliatory spirit when they stopped to abuse Philippine prisoners. They had seen great deeds of barbarism perpetrated on Americans by natives of the Philippines, and with great lack of judgment and foresight some of our men descended to kindred practices, much to the disgust of their more right-thinking fellow soldiers.

No human organization is perfect, and it is not surprising that some unsolicited examples are held up for reprobation to our forces in the Philippines. Every real patriot condemns their cowardly behavior, and the War Department has done its utmost, we believe, to bring the culprits to well-merited punishment. Even under Washington's command there were traitors and men of low character, and no one will pretend to say that "Billy" Wilson's "Zouaves" were a credit to the army in the civil war. But the great majority of the soldiers of both periods were chivalrous, God-fearing men. And our soldiers in the Philippines are no less deserving of honor and credit. They have done noble work in the far-away and unhealthy islands to which they have been sent by our Government. They have suffered privation and sickness with a cheerful resignation worthy of all praise, and their loyalty is a condition precedent which promises speedily to bring order out of chaos in a land that was in a condition of war and rebellion when it came under our rule. The administration of affairs there now is, according to President Roosevelt, as conscientious and able as any people could desire, and civil and religious liberty is assured to every inhabitant of the archipelago.

Without the devoted aid of our troops this could never have been brought about, and to bestow them with such because of the follies and wickedness of a few in their ranks is both unreasonable and ungrateful. Occasionally some grumbling soldier comes here with a story that contains more fiction than fact, and immediately the decriers of the army cry, "I told you so!" but when was there ever a company or a ship that did not have its Dick Deadeyes? And varying the old song, it may be pertinently said, "I trust him not; he's fooling these."

Our Sovereigns. The London Mail is much agitated over what it evidently regards as a vulgar display at the Vanderbilt-Nelson wedding at Newport, and yet it would seem to the unprejudiced observer that those who were chiefly concerned in the occasion were not over-anxious to attract public attention. They had a large number of friends and relations, and naturally the number of persons present at the marriage ceremony and the succeeding breakfast was large. The occasion was observed at a private house, where none but those invited were present, and no publicity was apparently sought. Indeed, there seems to have been a desire to avoid the gratification of general curiosity, and if people not immediately concerned in the affair were interested in it, this could not be helped by those taking direct part in the festivity.

If we mistake not, there is a great deal of glitter and show in England when a royal wedding takes place or when a royal baby is christened, and this is well enough, since sovereignty must be acknowledged in social as well as governmental affairs; but the London Mail must remember that we are all sovereigns in this country, all rulers,



THE CHAMPION STEER, SHAMROCK. See descriptive article.

only some of us are richer than others, and are given prominence on account of wealth, but for two or three generations. We have no earls and dukes and all that, though some of our forefathers capture foreign noblemen, and keep them on exhibition with money earned by a plodding progenitor or a gigantic paternal speculator.

On the whole, our rulers are quite as modest when they get married as are those who live on the other side of the misty Atlantic, and they never have a poet laureate to celebrate their nuptials.

Bonnie Dundee.

They will not allow the street cars to run in Bonnie Dundee on Sunday, and it appears that there was a little sharp practice used in securing this prohibition, which brings joy to the souls of the "uncos." Edinburgh and Glasgow have overcome their dislike to the running of public vehicles on the Sabbath, but Dundee, the third city of its size in Scotland, makes its people walk to church. This may do them good physically if they do not have to endure week days what Burns called "the heat and the hum" of the galley slaves, but we are afraid that pedestrianism will not increase their piety if they are tired out with a week's hard work. Indeed, we should suppose that many would stay away from Sunday services altogether if they could not attend them without first walking a great distance. A man tired out is not in a condition to receive spiritual nourishment, and he would be inclined to go to sleep over a sermon of the old-fashioned kind that prevails in the city, we believe, in the land of the heather.

However, Dundee, like many another place that has not kept up with the times, will get over her prejudice against Sunday cars, and the kirk and other places of divine worship will be better filled when this desirable result is brought about. Here in America we find that the attendants at our churches have been larger than ever since street transit was introduced, and we are glad to see that the same result is being achieved in the land of the heather.

The Greatest Lake for Irrigation.

The government of India is quietly completing a work of irrigation which in some ways surpasses the new dam across the river Nile.

The proposal is to construct near Hospet, on the Tunga Badra, a dam nearly a mile long and about 100 feet high. The result will be the formation of a huge lake, nearly forty miles long, covering an area of 150 square miles. The lake will be a great reservoir for the Tunga Badra, which is a tributary of the Assouan reservoir, while the area of the waterspread will be about three times that at Assouan. The cost of this gigantic project is estimated at 34 crores of rupees, which, owing to the extent of country it will be able to irrigate, the scheme, it is supposed, will be a most paying one.

In the extreme western corner of the Madras presidency, The Tunga Badra has its source in the Western Ghats, and flows eastward across India, four hundred miles to the sea.

Farm Life for Two.

"Farming," declared John Joy, as he reflectively gazed at plowing Mr. Joy, while she moved to the kitchen room. "Farming is one of the professions in which a man's chance for success is positively increased by a judicious matrimony." "But there are wives and wives. Your word 'judicious' must include a great deal. What kind of a wife should a young farmer choose?" I inquired.

"As if he really did the choosing!" exclaimed Mr. Joy, her black eyes sparkling slyly. "Why, any girl who is bright and good looking can lead a man with her little finger. And even if he had the choice, who ever knew advice to be taken in such cases?"

"Very well, madam," rejoined her husband, "what kind of a man must the young farmer be to win the favor of the right kind of girl?" "At the very least, he must be manly, of respectable habits and manners, and—well, good to his mother," she replied.

"But," said I, "suppose he imagines he has some degree of choice in the matter, what kind of a girl shall he look for?"

"For the first sweet girl who likes him, probably. But ask Tim!" she concluded, whimsically. Tim is a farm hand, old, steady and sober.

"A girl," observed Tim readily, "ought to be from prime, good stock, sound and healthy and good tempered; with no tricks, well trained and not afraid of work."

"Good horse qualities at any rate," laughed Joy. "After all, a girl's foundation duty is to be a good animal, and not all succeed. And what would you say about morals, religion, education and all that?"

"I said, 'well trained' and no tricks," responded Tim, soberly.

"Well, perhaps that term covers a great deal. Another term, including many things, is 'companionable.' She must be so, at least, to the man in question." "Oh, the silly men," cried Mrs. Joy. "Bright eyes, a soft voice, and what cares a youth for all the rest? The best wives of all would never find a husband, except that now and then a man is found with a grain or two of sense."

"After all," concluded John Joy, "the youngsters will settle it among themselves, and leave rules to those who make 'em. If we can only bring them up with the saving 'grain of sense,' I'm not much afraid of what they 'll do.'"

The Champion Fat Steer.

The grand prize winner at the last international stock show in Chicago was the grade Angus steer, Shamrock. He was a two-year-old grade Angus, and was bred and fattened by the Iowa State Agricultural College, under the direction of Prof. J. H. Curtiss. His mother was a common milk cow of the Iowa prairies, and his sire was an Angus bull. As a calf he probably could have been bought by any butcher for \$9. If he had been sold as a yearling, before his fine points had been brought out by scientific feeding, he might have fetched seven or eight cents a pound in the market. At the present live stock show he has won nine first prizes and nine specialties, worth in all \$500, more money than has been won by any other animal at the exposition. The total amount of money he has put into the purse of his owners by prizes and by sale is \$150.80. The illustration, reproduced by permission of Secretary Coburn of the Kansas Board of Agriculture, gives an idea of the appearance of this famous steer.

Iowa Agricultural College may well point itself on this triumph in the art of feeding. This splendid animal was sold at auction, at fifty-six cents per pound to Richard Webster of New York. He tipped the scales at 1906 pounds, making his purchase price \$1010.80.

Spring Notes by Farmers.

It is a poor farmer that does not keep a diary. He knows it all, and will never try new methods nor make experiments in his farm work.—S. F. Emerson, Somerset County, Me.

Altogether the farmer is prosperous, independent and full of courage for the future.—B. B. Gupthill, York County, Me.

Do not wait to see if the insects will not skip our farms. Be ready for them for their first meal.—J. P. Moulton, York County, Me.

There is nothing wrong in a man's carrying on his farm as well meet his own conditions, but provided he keeps up the fertility of the land. That man is called "blessed" who is making two spears of grass grow where only one grew before. That man who is robbing his farm of its fertility, reducing his crops year by year, and only doing a little grass farming, is not worthy to be classed with the intelligent farmer.—A. W. Gilman, Kennebec County, Me.

We can safely make it a general rule that good tillage pays—good plowing, good manuring, good harrowing, good cultivation.—E. C. Dow, Waldo County, Me.

I think farmers are looking so promising as it does this spring. Prices are high for all farm products, and a man that owns his farm and wants a dollar can get it if he has his mind to it.—Robert Roberts, Hancock County, Me.

It costs a farmer more to live than thirty years ago, and his living keeps pace in quality with the cost.—D. F. Hodges, Hancock County, Me.

Vegetable Trade Fairly Good.

Boston dealers report a demand somewhat improving. But supplies are increasing with the season, and prices of some lines have declined. Old vegetables sell with difficulty. The glut in this line of old vegetables now prevailing is generally explained by the large crop of last year, and by the extremely severe competition from Southern fresh vegetables. The demand has been good all the season, otherwise the situation might have been still worse for the growers. Conditions are bad enough as it is. Long Island farmers are finding it difficult to dispose of the remnants of last year's products, stored for winter use, such as cabbages, beets, turnips, onions, parsnips and carrots at sufficient returns to defray expenses of marketing. At markets in New York cabbages are being sold to speculators at 75 cents to \$1.50 per 100 heads, while cleaning up lots are closing out at far below those values. The root crops go at 25 to 50 cents a barrel. White onions bring usual prices, because of scarcity, but red and yellow varieties were seldom so low in the remembrance of marketmen.

The Boston markets are not so badly off in these lines, all vegetables having been salable at some price. Onion growers have fared the worst of any, owing in part to the poor quality of a large part of the crop. The onion market is now in better shape, with prices firm for good qualities. There is still too much poor stock on hand for which dealers are glad to get off of any kind. Potatoes are coming in more freely, large shipments having been made from the

West. (The decline in price, however, is hardly worth noting, the demand having kept nearly equal pace with the receipts. Some of the arrivals from Maine—those from the West are of fine quality, with prices, therefore, rather uncertain.)

Hot-house stuff is rather more plenty, and has been held back by the cloudy weather, and only tomatoes show a drop in price.

Rhubarb is arriving in large quantities from Illinois and California. Lord & Spencer, who handle a large proportion of the receipts, report some of late shipments from California arriving in poor condition on account of neglect to open the car ventilators. These shipments go by freight, under cover, as far as Chicago, and are then expressed. The far as Chicago, and are then expressed. The southern Illinois rhubarb is shorter and therefore less desirable. Wholesale prices \$1.50 to \$2 per forty-pound bunch.

The State Floral Emblem.

The bill to make the mountain laurel the floral emblem of Massachusetts was ordered to a third hearing in the House on Friday, by a vote of ninety-three yeas to thirty-five nays. Opposition was offered to it by Mr. Dowse of Malden, who moved to amend by substituting the mayflower, and by Mr. Cople, who thought the dandelion was more worthy recognition, because it was more general in its appearance. Perhaps this last recommendation was not unconnected with a desire to acknowledge the value of the lowly common flower at this season of the year as a medicinal article of diet, but its claims on this ground were ignored by the majority of our representatives.

Mr. Quinn of Boston, probably in a jocular spirit, set forth the advantages of the shamrock as an emblematic flower for the Commonwealth, but, of course, this advocacy was received in the vein in which it was presented, and this part of the question was amply put by after the fashion of the chancellor in Tennysonian rhyme.

Nobody apparently had a good word to say for one of nature's floral offerings, celebrated by Aldrich in the following lines:

The roses are a regal troupe,
And humble folk the daisies,
But bluebells of New England
To you I give my praises.

The mountain laurel may be all right, but what's the matter with the bluebell?

Notes on Foreign Agriculture.

The Canadian Produce Corporation will begin business in London and various provincial centres early in the coming autumn, and will, by means of its own ships, sell direct from the Canadian producer to the English market.

The British board of agriculture has issued a leaflet describing how by an application of caustic potash to the horn bud of young calves the horns can be prevented from growing, and thus the necessity obviated for inflicting pain upon the full-grown animal by sawing off the horns.

The Minister of Agriculture for Argentina has engaged an American professor to take charge of and organize the department of agriculture now separated from the pastoral department.

The English poultryman complaining that if the British poultry and egg trade had been fostered with government aid the agricultural interest might have been richer by \$300,000 a year, the sum which is now paid for foreign eggs and foreign poultry.

An Australian correspondent points out that an interesting example of the fashion in which what is today a curse may tomorrow be an ally is supplied by the scale to which the rabbit industry has grown in Australia. A few years ago the rabbit was the plague and dread of the whole farming class. But Australians are learning now to turn the rabbit into a commercial asset. Twenty millions of Australian rabbit skins were sold in London last year, while nearly three million rabbits frozen in their furs were sent to the London market from Victoria alone. No fewer than twenty-four thousand rabbits were trapped in Australia last year; and, being trapped, were translated into a marketable commodity.

Weaning Pigs.

A series of eight experiments recently demonstrated the advisability of keeping pigs on sows as long as possible, consistent with the healthy and strong condition of the mother. The chief reason for this is that a sow and her pigs together will extract more nourishment from a given quantity of food than will the weaned pigs alone.

The sow and pigs were weighed separately each week, and any loss or gain of the sow was deducted from or added to the increased weight of the pigs. The pigs were allowed to remain on the sow for ten weeks, then a similar course of feeding was carried on with the pigs for seven weeks. The sow and pigs consumed on an average 231 pounds of meal and 534 pounds of skim-milk in making a similar increase.

Good Outlook for Honey.

Mail advices from San Bernardino, Cal., as reported in the New York Commercial Bulletin, say of the honey prospects: "R. F. Herr, county bee inspector, predicts for the coming season the highest honey crop in ten years. He has been to various sections of the country during the past several weeks in pursuit of his duties as inspector, and he has in consequence noted the situation thoroughly. In speaking of the expected crop, he says: 'I can truly say that I believe this vicinity is going to put out a bigger crop of honey during the coming season than has been the case in ten years past. The last big rain, coming at the time of the year that it did, will result in an extra heavy growth of sage and the several shrubs from whose blossoms the bees obtain their material, which means a big harvest. The bees are in a fine condition and everything points to a crop of extraordinary size.'"

Advance in Wheat.

The late rise of two or three cents per bushel in the price of wheat is without warrant in the natural conditions and is generally credited to the work of Chicago speculators. All reports agree upon the prospect of an enormous crop, and nothing has occurred to impair the outlook. Such changes as may occur in prices depend largely on the actions of the Armour crowd, who seem to have the market in hand, but their influence is likely to be temporary. Oats are a little cheaper. Corn is about steady, and bag meal has reached the lowest figure quoted for a long period. Flour is slightly higher. Feeds and mill products show but slight changes.

Value of Berley on the Farm.

Berley is a quick-growing grain crop, and requires for its best success a soil in good condition physically and in richness. Where this grain succeeds well it makes a profitable crop. It produces well, matures early, and is worth as much pound for pound as corn as a feed for swine, along with the skim-milk from the dairy. It is also a good crop to seed to grass with.

The practice of substituting in nursery stock without notice to the buyer comes very close to a fraud. Nurserymen, otherwise reliable, find it very convenient when one variety has been sold out to ship something else which they consider just as good. When a planter orders a certain kind of fruit because of the fertilizing power of its blossoms, or to give variety to his fruit product, or because the ripening period and the quality renders it safe from thieves, nothing can be more exasperating than to find that the well-meaning dealer has sent him a kind of which he already has more than enough, and which does not possess the special characteristic he wanted. The experienced buyer in ordering writes, "no substitutions without notice," and reputable dealers take heed. But the novice is often imposed upon, and the practice ought to be stopped.

The various quarantines in the infected districts of Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Vermont are likely to cause increasing trouble for the farmers as the season advances. These are in addition to the national quarantine which forbids moving the cattle from one State to another. The State quarantine in Massachusetts forbids moving cattle upon the highways without permission from the State cattle bureau, the restriction only applying to sections in and near where the disease has at some time appeared. Numerous applications for such permission have been made, and have in many cases, it is said, met with refusal. The penalties are very severe for violation of either State or national quarantine. Naturally there is a great deal of complaint, since the line is drawn about now in which no disease has appeared. Fortunately, the restrictions are not likely to remain in force long in Massachusetts and Vermont unless new outbreaks should occur.

The ideal crop for a young orchard is a vine-melons and cucumbers. The hills of such a crop are away from the trees, admitting thorough cultivation towards the trees. The crop selected should be one that needs cultivation until the middle of July.—Prof. L. R. Taft, Michigan.

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Poetry.

A BUNCH OF EASTER VIOLETS.

Within your leaves, oh, violets fair,
I find new life and new perfume rare.
Like a morn that breaks at dawn,
Resplendent 'er the eastern way.

My heart rejoices in the light,
Believes in your blossoms bright,
Both tell of Him, and His dear love,
Whom from earth to heaven above.

LOUISE LEWIS MATTHEWS.
Blue Hill, Mass., Easter, 1903.

SNOWDROPS.

Wild birds call at my gate
When the first pale snowdrops wait;
Breaks from the mould
The crocus bold.

At the first few days of spring,
Who ghosts from the past they bring!
Scents of forgotten flowers
From a country that once was ours,
From a land above
Where we first knew love.

Whispers—and through the showers
Echoes that sigh and sigh
Of the land where we first knew spring
And where we first knew love.

—H. De Vere Staupole, in N. Y. Tribune.

UPWARD.

Against the blue leaves green
With spikes of pink white flowers between
Against the blue leaves green
A line of twigs shows here and there—
Ah! all is spring about the blue!
With God and sunlight everywhere!

Across the blue is calm warm water
The stately red-legged storks float by
The sun-gilt pigeons wheel on high—
Great insects drift in scented air
All springtime drifts across the blue!
With God and sunlight everywhere!

Up to the blue there waits a sign
The young leaves stir, and buds are seen
And lustrous swallows come to cry—
"Hush!" saith the spring, "it is a prayer
That goes to God beyond the blue."
Only the sea can enter there.

—Annie Linden, in The Fall Mail Magazine.

IN PARADISE.

A lifetime here of sweet familiar things
Shared—loves and joys and sorrows—all with
Then in one breath her wondering spirit springs
To that unknown and vast eternity.

I knew her every thought, and she knew mine
We loved small piping birds, fair spreading
trees,
Green shadows, singing brooks, the reddening
wines.

Instead of these she knows all mysteries
Yet on those pleasant pastures where her feet
Wander beside still waters, through my tears
I see her gathering asphodels, and know
She waits for me through all the timeless years.

—Constance Grosvenor Alexander.

PURSUIT.

A boy once chased a butterfly; it led him far
away;
He ran till he was out of breath, until the twilight
gray;
His hands were torn with briars, and his weary
legs were sore.

And when he caught the fluttering thing he valued
it no more.
A man once chased a dollar, and he ran with
might and main,
Unmoved by other pleasures and indifferent to
pain.

And when a glittering fortune in his grasp he
placed,
He said, "I'll turn philanthropist and give it all
away!"

—Washington Evening Star.

Spring and the spirit of Spring,
Gay, luxurious, flattering
Singing is about with expectant eyes,
Lord of the earth and the spacious skies,
Bake, and lover, and worldly-wise.

Yea? or Nay? For he not will wait—
fake your chance, it is for too late,
The young and happy, and glad to live,
The days that follow have naught to give,
Youth and Love are things fugitive.

—Lillian Street.

When Bridget lights the kitchen fire she uses
Kerosene;
There is a little boy who oft eats apples that
are green,
And in spite of all that has been sung and all
that has been said,
It is a fact that neither Bridget nor the boy
is dead.

—Washington Star.

Her check was velvet," thus declared
His sweet love note, but when in court,
These notes were read aloud, he thought
Her cheek was of a different sort.

—Town Topics.

Some modern songs would be all right,
And certainly more cheering,
If some freak of fate they might
Be sung out of our hearing.

—Cincinnati Enquirer.

As to getting a duck
There are warnings in plenty,
And for one of them see
Prov. 28:20.

—Chicago Tribune.

The world is going round and round,
And all the while it's going round,
We're walking on its face.

—Columbia Jester.

When all the world is peaceful
And things are going right,
Some folks will be happy
Till they start another fight.

—Washington Star.

Miscellaneous.

A Prairie Paradise.

When we returned from our honeymoon, we went at once to the mid-prairie town selected for our home. The place had "boomed," failed, and on the support of two wheat crops, partly recovered and could be bought for a trifle, compared with their original cost. We bought a lot and prepared to move one of the dwellings on to the site of our new home.

We selected a five-roomed, Colonial affair with leaded glass in the front hall, and soft pine floor in the kitchen. "But it has possibilities," declared Caroline. "We must build a porch and put in a furnace and—"

"Let's move in first," I suggested. I only regretted that the condition of my purse would not allow me to buy the two vacant lots on the same time-to-be shady side of the choice street of the town, instead of one.

"We will buy the other when we can," declared Caroline, confidently, "nobody will want it now."

So we filled and graded and sodded, making rapid progress toward homeliness, and it was with considerable complacency that we noted the admiring glances of the townspeople as they drove by evening. Bug-ringing takes the place of parks, seashore and mountain and dweller on the level lands. There is nothing else for them to do.

We planned a huge canopy bed for the centre of the other lot, and had a long list of shrubs and hardy plants to be ordered for its adornment. And then came trouble.

I kept it from Caroline as long as I could, but one day she met me on the half-grass lawn, where blue-grass struggled with pusley, cockle burr and ambitious sunflowers, her face showing signs of deep grief.

"Oh, John," she began, "what do you think—Gobson has it!"

"What? I knew it last week."

"That they bought the other lot?"

"Yes."

"And can't we get it?"

"I've tried—he won't want to sell."

Her pink apron went over her head and she fled to the house.

Gobson was common—no denying that. Not two square feet of grass grew on the lawn at their present home on Harrison boulevard. Western towns do not have streets, all are boulevards and avenues.

Boxes, barrels and trash littered the back yard.

"And they run to castor beans," broke out Caroline when I overtook her. "Just think of that forest of monstruosities along their sidewalk!" But they've got money, and Gobson told me they intended to fix up the lot in fine shape.

Caroline was not convinced and refused to look southward across the vacant lot all the remainder of the day.

Gobson also got a boom house—one of the rambling, dry-goods box style—and he set it close to the northern edge of his lot, bringing it very near to our own lot. He covered the lawn with the buffalo grass of the Western prairies, because that was the growth would survive the hot summer months without sprinkling.

Caroline watched it all dismally. One day she broke out crying. "On, John," she muttered, "castor beans—I saw them—a hundred are coming up along the line."

"They'll hide some of the ugliness, anyhow," I suggested, but that did not soothe her.

A firm-set purpose marked her features the remainder of the day, and I was not much surprised when, in the evening, she slipped out through the kitchen and into the back yard, followed her.

She seized a hoe from its accustomed place on the grape arbor, and stealthily took her way amid the sprouting catnip and tree houseyuckles.

"Caroline!"

She started guiltily at the sound of my voice.

"What are you going to do?"

"Dig 'em up," fiercely. "No one has a right to inflict castor beans on a front yard."

It was time to act firmly, and I gave her a stern lesson on the prerogatives of property owners, and then we walked back to the house, arm in arm.

The castor beans grew and grew and grew. By midsummer they were seven feet high—and still growing. It was hideous—deplorable—so—but perhaps no worse than the cinder walks and patches of jimson weed that lay beyond. Gobson put up hitching-posts, iron effigies of red-clioed negro boys holding the hitching rings in outlandish hands. Caroline shuddered at the sight.

Our neighbor on the north was not ambitious. His lawn was without shrub or flower, but its smooth-shaven greenness was a delight to the eye.

As for our own lawn, the sunflowers had been swept away and blue-grass and white clover were making a pretty growth. A snowball and several altheas in contrasting colors promised well for next year's display. The castor beans were still brilliant spikes above the rich tropical foliage. All the time the castor beans grew and grew aggressively.

The fierce hot winds had withered the calistegia, and the castor vines were turning brown. The young rose bushes, so glorious in May, showed signs of a struggle, and summer grass was increasing on the lawn. The blue-grass could not withstand the glittering blaze of an unclouded sky. One wind, smooth was showing. The one thing in the landscape that flourished and bade the elements defiance was—Gobson's line of castor beans.

Caroline worried a great deal about the flowers and, though perhaps I should not tell it, neglected her household duties in order to give them watchful care. And then Mrs. Gobson gave a party and did not invite her!

On the day of the tea-party I went out on the prairie five miles to see a ranchman on a business matter for an Eastern client. Caroline stood on the porch and waved cheerily to me as I drove past the house. The undertaker, who also rented chairs and tables for parties, was at the time carrying supplies for the reception into the dwelling.

As I drove down the road, I remembered the little contrasting green of the castor bean leaves and the grayish brown of the lawn, and wondered if an artist would not find a subject for an impressionist picture in the ensemble. I turned if the head the line reached the limit of vision and looked again at the promising little home, with its flowers and shrubs and start of trees. It was worth looking at. "A good deal can be accomplished in this country," I mused, touching up the team, "if one knows how to do it."

It was different when I returned.

During the afternoon a storm, one of those fierce prairie storms, swept over the country. It was so dark at the ranch that lamps were lighted. Rain and wind accompanied the clouds, and sheets of rain made the level plain a lake. It was long after night when I drove into town and turned down South Empire avenue, a little anxious for the safety of our lawn decorations. A block from our watchman stopped my horse.

"Your wife is here at a neighbor's," he said, "and wishes you would come at once."

"Is she hurt?" I gasped, and, without waiting a reply, hurried up the lawn to the house.

The door opened, and in the half-lighted hall Caroline met me, clasping her arms around my neck and burying her face on my shoulder.

Beyond, in the illumination of the parlor, stood a dozen people, and among them—the Gobsons.

"What is the matter?" I asked puzzled.

"Well, sir," said Gobson, coming forward and frankly extending his hand "about everything that could be the matter and leave us alive and well—there's been a twister."

"And it's gone—and he carried me across the lawn!" incoherently exclaimed Caroline, again hiding her face.

Gobson and the others laughed heartily.

funnel-shaped cloud in the Southwest and just hauled across the yard, picked her up and carried her to our cellar.

Caroline's arms tightened again.

"That's about all. We stayed there until it was over and then came out—and the houses are gone with a lot of others—but no one is seriously hurt."

He had told the truth. The day had been a serious one for that part of the town, and our block was visited by the cyclone's worst wrath. Caroline and I walked down South Empire avenue the next morning. Our pretty house was a mass of lumber on the rear of the lot; Gobson's was not far away, likewise wrecked. Everything was rained out and dismal.

For a long time we gazed at the ruin.

Then Caroline turned a laughing face to me. "John," she whispered, taking care that the other neighbors might not hear, "there's something to be thankful for—the castor beans and porch are gone!"

For a long time we gazed at the depot that evening and caught a farewell wave of her hand from the Pullman window as she was borne away for a visit to the home folks in that blessed haven of the dweller on prairie lands—"back east."

Gobson came to our office this afternoon. He will buy or sell, so that one of us may own both lots on South Empire avenue. I have written to Caroline. On her reply depends whether or not we undertake again the building of a "habitation in the wilderness."—C. M. Harger, in N. Y. Evening Post.

Douth's Department.

NO REMAINDER.

"Seven shillings were standing By the pasture wall. Tell me," said the teacher To her scholars small,

"One poor sheep was frightened, Jumped and ran away; One from seven shillings Woolly sheep would stay?"

Up went Kitty's fingers— A farmer's daughter she, Not so bright at figures As she ought to be.

"Please, ma'am?" Well, then, Kitty, Tell, if you know, Of the sheep that jumped over a fence, And the rest would go."

—John W. Nelson.

Wild Animals' Crafty Ways.

An Old Planchman Tells of the Cunning Tricks of Some and the Stupidity of Others He Has Seen.

Of all the animals that live from hand to mouth, the rabbit seems to be especially defenceless and the most eagerly sought after. Yet harmless Bunney will fight on occasion and look fierce enough to scare a camel.

On my ranch in Cottonwood arroyo, twelve miles south of town, was a shepherd dog that never tired of playing tag with the numerous cottontails taken from the cañon and in the big rock ledges thereabout. The dog was always "it," for he never caught any rabbits, but one evening he flushed one in the millet patch and tore across the dry creek bed after it pretty close behind, but not gaining to any encouraging extent.

Just as he rushed past a large cane cactus a big rabbit flashed out like a gray streak and hit him a solid thump in the side. His onslaught was so sudden and well timed that he never lost his footing, rolled over on the side bill with a yell, scrambled to his feet, and raced back to the cabin with his tail down. The rabbit watched him go and then hopped back under the cactus again.

That the dog always viewed that particular spot with dark suspicion, and it is doubtful that he ever knew just what hit him.

Sometimes rabbits seem to delight in playing with and teasing a dog, as swallows do with a hawk, rolled over on the side bill with a yell, scrambled to his feet, and raced back to the cabin with his tail down. The rabbit watched him go and then hopped back under the cactus again.

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Down the village street they go, holding their wreaths above their heads and singing:

Palm, Palm Paschen,
Weidra is het Paschen,
Hedder is het Paschen,
Hedder is het Paschen.

In English it is:
Palm, Palm Sunday,
Weidra is het Paschen,
Hedder is het Paschen,
Hedder is het Paschen.

They knock at every door, and are seldom refused. When they have collected enough eggs they boil them hard, and stain them either brown with coffee, or red with beet juice.

Easter day dawns bright and clear, and all the village children go out into the meadow, carrying their eggs with them, and the electric bells begin.

Karl knocks one of his brown eggs against a red one of Katrina's, the brown egg breaks, but the red one does not, so Karl gives Katrina the broken egg. Again and again they do this, but always Katrina's egg breaks, and she becomes the possessor of all three of Karl's eggs.

Karl laughs good-naturedly, and cracks his egg against those of Hans or Gretchen, and wins back as many as he has lost.

When all the eggs are cracked, the children seat themselves on the grass and proceed to eat them, talking and laughing merrily all the while.

—Anna M. Neuberger, in New York Tribune.

Historical.

The great event of the Egyptian season from an archeological point of view has been the discovery of the tomb of the Pharaohs of the Eighteenth Dynasty, Thothmes IV. For the last two years Mr. Theodore M. Davies, an American gentleman who is well known in Egypt, has been excavating steadily and systematically in the Valley of the Kings at Thebes, clearing the rubbish away inch by inch, and so laying bare the bedrock. He has been rewarded this spring by the discovery of a previously unknown royal tomb. The mummy of Thothmes IV. is in the Chamber of the Ancestors, which is the tomb of Amenhotep II., to which it had been conveyed by the Egyptian priests for the purpose of concealment, probably in the age of the Twenty-first Dynasty, but the Pharaoh's name has not been discovered, though it was pretty certain that it was hidden somewhere under the debris in the Valley of the Tombs of the Kings.

The actual chariot made for the Pharaoh, and in which he rode at Thebes among the recent discoveries in Egypt. The body of the vehicle alone is preserved, but it is in a perfect condition. The wooden frame was first covered with paper mache, made from papyrus, and this was then covered with a thin layer of gold leaf, and inside and out, into scenes from the battles fought by the Pharaoh in Syria. The art is of a very high order, every detail being exquisitely finished, and the faces of the Syrians being clearly portrayed, taken from captives at Thebes. The chariot is, in fact, one of the finest specimens of art that have come down to us from antiquity.

The search for the cornerstone of the old United States Mint in Philadelphia was rewarded not long ago by finding that historic block of marble on the Juniper-street side of the structure, about forty feet north of Chestnut street. The stone, which weighs three hundred pounds, was found to conceal an old-fashioned candy jar, whose cork had become as hard as stone. In the jar were found three coins and two newspapers, the former consisting of a dime of 1829, a half-cent dated 1828 and a large copper cent of 1829. The newspapers are the Aurora and Pennsylvania Gazette, dated July 4, 1829, and the Democratic Review, dated July 3, 1829.

Three spots of unusual interest will be visited by people who attend the coming celebration of the 200th anniversary of the settlement of the town of Huntington on the north shore of Long Island Sound, on the 25th of July. The first is the site of the old fort, which was built by the British on the shore of Huntington bay. There Nathan Hale, the patriot spy, was captured by the British and taken to New York, where, on Sept. 22, 1776, he was hanged near the spot in City Hall Park, where his remains were buried in the middle of the century.

Another point of interest is the old farm house tenanted in Revolutionary times by the Widow Child or Cheever. It was from this door that Nathan Hale walked down to the shore to meet the British and take him back to Connecticut, and to the patriot lines, and instead found a boat manned by British and Tories. Then to all lovers of Walt Whitman the ancient building in which he first saw the light of day will be a place of pilgrimage.

According to the late John Fiske, the old Connecticut Blue law forbidding a man to kiss his wife on Sunday, never really existed. In his "Beginnings of New England," he says: "The story of the Blue laws of New Haven, which have been made the theme of so many jests at the expense of our forefathers, never really existed. The story of the Blue laws was first published in the Boston Herald, and was a piece of pure fiction. In London, who took delight in horrifying our British cousins with tales of wholesale tarring and feathering done by the patriots of the Revolution

